Message

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To: karn_1999@yahoo.com
Subject: FW: Bloomberg article on PFAS presentation on Monday

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Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 3:30 PM
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Subject: Bloomberg article on PFAS presentation on Monday

EPA to Release Method to Find 'Forever Chemicals' in Pesticides

Sept. 21, 2021, 1:15 PM

- No pesticide-specific methods exist for PFAS
- Methods to aid corporate, state, federal work

Manufacturers and state regulators could detect "forever chemicals" in pesticides using a method the EPA said it intends to release in coming weeks.

"Having a final approved methodology will help us with testing these products going forward," Megan Provost, president of Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, or RISE, said Tuesday.

The test method will address a problem the Environmental Protection Agency, state officials, and pesticide manufacturers have faced since last year when the agency's research found specially treated plastic containers could unintentionally leach "forever chemicals" into pesticides.

No approved test methods exist that manufacturers or states could easily and reliably use to detect the chemicals, called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS.

Modified Method

The EPA is modifying an existing agency method that measures these chemicals in water, Thuy L. Nguyen, chief of the EPA pesticide office's analytical chemistry laboratory, said Monday.

The agency aims to release near the end of the month a test that can detect 28 PFAS compounds, she said. The method is designed for pesticide products mixed in oil, petroleum distillates, or mineral oils, the EPA later said.

“If stakeholders find PFAS in their pesticide product, they should notify EPA,” the agency said by email.

Provost and Nguyen spoke during a two-day Association of American Pesticide Control Officials meeting. EPA pesticide officials updated state regulators at the event about a range of issues they face.

PFAS are dubbed “forever chemicals” because it takes extraordinary means to break some of them down once released into the environment. The PFAS of concern, which can linger for years in people’s bodies, also may increase the risk of health problems including high cholesterol, a weakened immune system, and certain cancers.

VIDEO: **The EPA says more than 600 PFAS chemicals are in the marketplace in the U.S. States are racing to regulate PFAS, while the federal government lags.**

Maine Laws

Concerns about the chemicals prompted a new Maine law requiring the state’s Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to revise regulations and require pesticide manufacturers to reveal whether their products have been in fluorinated high-density polyethylene containers, the type of packaging the EPA found can leach PFAS.

Manufacturers also will have to inform the department about whether PFAS are used to make their pesticides, said Megan Patterson, director of the state’s Board of Pesticides Control.

The Maine department still needs to decide whether it needs to regulate chemical ingredients or “adjuvants” in pesticides, Patterson said. The department must submit a report on its findings to the legislature by Jan. 15, she said.

A second Maine law also may affect the state’s future use of pesticides, Patterson said. That law would phase out non-essential products containing PFAS by 2030.

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